

England under the leadership of Maj. John Durkee. Recognizing the beauty of the region, and the abundance of its many natural resources, the first settlers named the region after Col. John Wilkes and Col. Isaac Barre who defended the American colonies before their colleagues in the British Parliament.

Located in the heart of the beautiful Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania, the Wilkes-Barre area grew rapidly. On March 17, 1806, the area was incorporated as a borough; on May 4, 1871 it became a city; and on September 22, 1898, a third-class city charter was issued.

The first residents of the city of Wilkes-Barre were a very diverse collection of early European immigrants drawn to the area by its fertile soil along the Susquehanna River. The earliest Wilkes-Barre residents brought with them an outstanding sense of family values, community pride, and commitment to remembering their heritage. Today, those same traditions still run strong through the residents of Wilkes-Barre.

From its earliest days, the development of Wilkes-Barre was driven by the strong will of the area residents. The earliest residents worked the soil to establish successful farms. When coal was discovered in abundance throughout the region, the residents of the Wilkes-Barre area moved quickly to mine the lands. By taking full advantage of this newly discovered resource, the productivity of the residents of the city made Wilkes-Barre the Anthracite Capital of the World. The region became one of the most prosperous areas anywhere in the country as anthracite fueled the industrial revolution.

As the use of anthracite declined and after the Knox Mine Disaster virtually wiped out deep anthracite mining, the Wilkes-Barre area suffered a tremendous economic decline. In the 1950's and 1960's thousands of families left the area to find job opportunities elsewhere. Then in 1972 the Hurricane Agnes caused unprecedented flooding, causing nearly \$1 billion in damages to 25,000 homes and 2,700 businesses. More than 60,000 people were unemployed, some temporarily, and some permanently. Many thought that the city of Wilkes-Barre would become a ghost town.

But the "Valley with a Heart" rallied together, cleaned up the muck and mud, rebuilt the community's infrastructure, and Wilkes-Barre once again became the hub of activity for northeastern Pennsylvania. This February, President Bill Clinton came to the Wyoming Valley to announce the completion of the general design memorandum that will allow the raising of the levees that protect Wilkes-Barre and much of the Wyoming Valley from the ravages of a flood the scale of that caused by Hurricane Agnes. After working on this project since my election in 1984, I am pleased that finally we will have protection from the devastation that the Susquehanna River can bring.

The Susquehanna River is now poised to be appreciated as the asset that originally drew Wilkes-Barre's first settlers to the area. The inflatable dam included in the levee raising project will serve as an incentive to beautify Wilkes-Barre's waterfront and lead to increased economic and recreational activity. I have no doubt that upon the opening of the time capsule in which this statement will be buried, an unpolluted Susquehanna River will once again be the center piece for the Wyoming Valley, with a thriving waterfront in Wilkes-Barre.

The entire city of Wilkes-Barre is ready to undergo a tremendous revitalization. With the nearly \$40 million renovation of the former Stegmaier Brewery complex and the newly renamed Max Rosenn Federal Courthouse, the city will experience an infusion of hope and new development. Mayor Tom McGroarty has shown tremendous energy and enthusiasm for solving the city's problems and preparing for the 21st century, and I appreciate the enormous amount of assistance he has provided for these and other projects.

Northeastern Pennsylvania is destined for economic growth unlike any we have experienced since the beginning of the anthracite industry. Much of that growth will result from the development of new technologies by our talented and hardworking workforce, such as those individuals employed by Harris Semiconductor in Mountaintop. In the spirit of the time capsule, let me predict that over the next 50 years the city of Wilkes-Barre will serve as the core for an economically vibrant region; let me speculate further that the second electronic revolution brought about by the Harris Corporation's power electronics building blocks program will drive that economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the city of Wilkes-Barre in the U.S. House of Representatives. I am also pleased to join all the citizens of Wilkes-Barre as we commemorate the city's 125th anniversary, and I look forward to great things for the city and our region.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEMOCRATIC ELECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us on May 21, House Concurrent Resolution 154, congratulated the popularly elected President of Taiwan, Lee Ten Hui, as well as the courageous people of Taiwan for the overwhelming success of their March 23, 1996 Presidential elections. Action on the resolution by this body could hardly be more timely, in that President Lee was inaugurated on May 20, 1996. This Member commends the sponsor of the resolution, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK], and the chairman of the International Relations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] for their leadership on this important resolution.

First, on a personal level, this Member congratulates President Lee for his outstanding electoral victory and commends him for the bold inaugural speech he delivered yesterday in Taipei. There is no leader in the world today who has been more vilified by Beijing and no territory more bullied than Taiwan. So what does President Lee do in his inaugural speech? In a bold peacemaking gesture, President Lee seeks a face-to-face meeting with PRC President, Jiang Zemin. Is this call for a meeting a sign of weakness, a sign that Taiwan is bowing to Beijing's pressure? Of course not. President Lee's call is a sign of strength, a sign that Taiwan has the will to challenge Beijing face-to-face and attempt to

work out their serious differences through direct and constructive exchange.

Second, this Member believes the people of Taiwan have earned the respect and admiration of people throughout the world and deserve our greatest praise. They have embraced democratic reforms with the same enthusiasm and good sense that have driven Taiwan's economy to its current heights. In addition, the people of Taiwan conducted themselves with great courage and resolve throughout the crisis created by Beijing's heavy-handed effort to bully them through provocative live fire exercises and missile tests.

Finally, this Member would make an editorial comment about the message that Taiwan's successful transition to democracy holds for all of Asia. Nothing belies the notion that democratic principles are alien to traditional Asian values better than what has transpired in Taiwan during the last 10 years. Taiwan joins Korea, Thailand, Mongolia, and the Philippines, in various stages of democratic development, as an important success story in Asian democracy and human rights. The success of Taiwan's democratic development demonstrates clearly that democracy and economic development are compatible and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Speaker, this Member, therefore, supports this important and timely resolution.

TEEN PREGNANCY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 22, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BRINGING UP BABY: THE PROBLEM OF TEEN PREGNANCY

Hoosiers are concerned about the moral fiber of our country. They talk to me about the decline of basic values, particularly among young people. Every time they open the papers or watch the evening news they see stories about crime and drug use, failing schools, and deteriorating neighborhoods.

We can talk all day about the root causes of these problems and possible solutions. But what I hear from Hoosiers most often is the urgent need to revitalize and strengthen our families. They have a very strong sense that the breakdown of the traditional family may explain many of the difficulties experienced by today's youth.

I am most alarmed by the growing number of teen pregnancies. The United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy of any country in the industrialized world, at 1.2 million per year, and studies have shown that teen parents and their children are prone to experience more emotional, economic and social problems than older parents.

RECENT TRENDS

The statistics on teenage pregnancy are sobering. Of the 1.2 million teens who become pregnant each year, half will give birth, and most of them will remain single. Most of these young women and their babies live in poverty, and the cycle of poverty continues into subsequent generations. 77% of unmarried, adolescent mothers go on welfare within five years of giving birth, and the federal government spends about \$34 billion each year on families started by teens.